



High School EMT Courses Look Toward Future

2 Nat'l Award Named for Indiana Native

High schools have been taking a leading role in educating the next generation of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).

received special recognition in 2015, with all 17 students taking and passing the exam.

3 CUSEC Donation Bolsters IDHS Team

“We’re starting to recognize a shortage of personnel,” said Mike Garvey, EMS program director at IDHS. “Getting high school students interested early is important to the future of the emergency medicine.”

“You cannot teach an EMT course like a normal high school course,” said Jean Moore-Palm, Primary Instructor with FWCS says. “The students are being trained to go into public safety, and discipline has to be a major factor in their training. Students must show maturity when they are on an accident scene or in the home of a patient.”

4 International Data Privacy Day Jan. 28

5 NFA 2017 Class List Announced

Statewide, 70 percent of students completing an EMT course take the certification examinations with an average pass rate of 89.7 percent. Fort Wayne Community Schools (FWCS) Career Academy

For more information on starting a high school EMT program, contact Tony Pagano with IDHS at TPagano@dhs.IN.gov.

Bargersville Builds Emergency Training Tower



The Bargersville Community Fire Department has completed construction on a new emergency services training facility. Division Chief Eric Funkhouser has been the head of the project, which started more than two years ago. The department is currently using the facility for training.

The new facility will be available to all Johnson County emergency service agencies in spring 2017, and the department is talking with colleges in the area for a possible partnership in the future. The new training facility is fully live-fire functional under NFPA 1403 and was certified through the county. The facility is capable of burning two

wooden pallets and a bale of hay. There is a 40-ft. tower attached, which has several platforms and also contains a rappel bar. The tower offers the ability to conduct rope, confined space, hose deployment and search and rescue training.

The facility was funded through a grant from the Johnson County Foundation. The Bargersville Fire Department was awarded \$30,000 for the new facility, which was designed by Patriot Tactical in Franklin. Patriot Tactical is a business geared toward military functions, but designed Bargersville’s fire department training facility as their first fire service job.

Jasper County EMA Director Participates in Bicentennial Torch Relay

Emergency Management Agencies from IDHS District 1 participated in the Bicentennial Torch Relay as part of Indiana's bicentennial celebration. The torch passed through all 92 counties in the state before arriving in Indianapolis on October 15, 2016.

Jasper County Emergency Management Agency Director Karen Wilson was nominated as the chair of planning for Jasper

County. She dedicated more than a year to planning the event, which was held on Tuesday, October 11.



The Bicentennial Experience accompanied the relay, acting as a mobile museum celebrating the history and culture of Indiana.

Nat'l Firefighter Award Named After Indiana Native

A firefighter leadership award named after an Indiana native is presented each November at a national leadership training symposium.

The John M. Buckman III Leadership Award recognizes a chief officer with a volunteer or combination fire department who stands out as a true professional and has demonstrated leadership, integrity and outstanding values within the fire service.

Buckman has dedicated his career to firefighting and the wellness and training of firefighters. He currently serves at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and helped start the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Training System.

The award is sponsored by Provident Insurance and the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) of the International Association of Fire

Chiefs (IAFC). The 2016 recipient was Chief Rich Cowger from the Columbus Fire Department in Montana. Chief Cowger was presented the award at the VCOS Symposium in the Sun that ran from November 10-13 in Clearwater Beach, Florida.

Two Family Puppies Saved With Special Equipment During House Fire

On Nov. 12, the Griffith Fire Department in Lake County responded to a mutual aid fire call with the Lake Ridge Fire Department in Calumet Township. Responders arrived on scene to a fire originating in the basement of the home. Two puppies were found shaking and in lethargic condition.

Griffith Fire Department Engineer Steve Stelk used an oxygen mask specifically made for animal use to treat the puppies on scene. Fortunately, both puppies survived.

Stelk said that pets are cherished by families and it is helpful to have tools that allow responders to attempt to render aid to family pets. "In a house fire, families can be comforted by knowing an attempt was made to save their pet," Stelk continued. "In this instance the family still has two puppies, which gave them a sense of hope."

The equipment was donated to the Griffith Fire Department by Invisible Fence.



CUSEC Donation Bolsters IDHS Response Capabilities

A donation from the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) has helped strengthen the state's emergency response capabilities. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) recently received nine brand new Android tablets from CUSEC. The department plans to use the new equipment in the field when it conducts damage assessments.

“While this equipment was donated to the agency, it will ultimately benefit citizens,” said IDHS Executive Director David Kane. “The tablets will allow us to conduct damage assessments in a more efficient, accurate and timely manner.”

The tablets will be shared between the IDHS Individual Assistance program and the Indiana Building

Emergency Assessment and Monitoring (IBEAM) team. Both groups will use the tablets to run the IDHS damage assessment app that was developed by the agency. The app allows users in the field to upload real time information and photos of damaged property that can be viewed by other users anywhere.

CUSEC is a nonprofit group that works in partnership between the federal government and eight states in the central United States, including Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee to plan, mitigate and educate the public about earthquakes. The tablets were awarded to IDHS through a grant program to improve post-disaster damage assessment capabilities in the CUSEC region.



Emotional Wellbeing Resources Available to Citizens

Winter can be a difficult time, for emergency responders and citizens alike. Emergency responders, as well as emergency managers, deal with a host of difficult scenarios. Home fires, medical emergencies and injury responses, as well as natural disasters, can emotionally overwhelm first responders.

Recognizing the symptoms of stress-related issues is key. Emergency Responders can be at risk for post-traumatic stress disorder, while dispatchers and emergency managers can also be impacted by secondary traumatic stress.

Listed to the right are resources that can assist those in crisis.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- 1-800-273-8255
- Lifeline Crisis Chat (Text Based) <http://chat.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/GetHelp/LifelineChat.aspx>
- 24/7
- Multiple Languages Available

Veterans Crisis Line

- 1-800-273-8255

The Trevor Project

- 1-866-488-7386
- <http://www.trevorproject.org>
- For LGBT+ youth ages 13-24
- Open noon-6 p.m. PST 7 days a week

Marion County Crisis & Suicide Hotline

- 317-251-7575
- 24/7

National Alliance on Mental Health HelpLine (Non-Crisis)

- 1-800-950-6264
- Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

CERT Teams Present a Preparedness Opportunity

With winter beginning to take hold in Indiana, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) asks public safety personnel to consider promoting participation in Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) as a way for citizens to take an active role in emergency preparedness.

A few recent examples of CERT activities in Indiana include:

- In September, Putnam County CERT members assisted state and local authorities in two searches for missing persons.
- This past summer, Scott County CERT partnered with American Red Cross to distribute smoke alarms to families in need and provided first aid and educational outreach at the Scott County Fair and the Scott County MaterFest.

- Rush County CERT was active during severe weather that struck Rush County and the City of Rushville in June 2016, assisting the Rush County Emergency Management Agency with tracking damage reports and aiding law enforcement by directing traffic in Rushville.
- During the flooding of summer 2015, Allen County CERT assisted with sandbagging efforts to stem flooding.

CERTs may be requested to support first responders on scene during or after an emergency, such as earthquakes, fires, floods or man-caused disasters, but they're not limited to emergency response. They can provide many other valuable services to their community such as:

- Directing traffic or parking;

- Promoting community awareness of potential hazards;
- Assisting local charitable organizations;
- Supplementing regular staff at special community events, like a parade, or
- Educating students about the importance of safety and preparation.

IDHS offers a "CERT Toolkit" as a flexible outreach resource that CERTs can use to better connect and engage with their public about improving local safety capabilities. To learn more about CERT or to download the CERT toolkit, please visit dhs.in.gov/citizencorps.htm.

International Data Privacy Day is January 28

Technology moves quickly, and emergency managers are the front line in planning for technological incidents. Concern for personal data continues to be high for companies and citizens alike, although basic security technique implementation, especially on a personal level, can be inconsistent. For Data Privacy day, observed Saturday, January 28, 2017, consider reaching out to staff, citizens and businesses within the community to educate and encourage safe online practices.

A member of the Indiana cybersecurity initiative, Landon Lewis, co-founder of Indianapolis-based IT security and compliance company Pondurance, recommends individuals work directly with online sources. "Go directly to the website you trust, and be very leery of emails being sent," he said. "Attackers leverage what's known as phishing in an attempt to get you to click on a site that they control and enter sensitive information into their controlled website."

Tips for protecting data privacy include the following:

- Make sure all devices – computers, tablets, smart phones – use updated web browsers and updated virus/spyware protection software. Update regularly.
- Use random passwords – in combinations of numbers and letters – that can be easily remembered, but that hackers can't easily figure out. Don't use family names, pet names, street names. Yes, a serious hacker can figure out a birth date, backwards.
- Limit the amount of personal information posted on social media.
- Be wary of sales offers made online. If it sounds too good to be true, it likely is.
- When making a purchase online, don't provide extra information

that a vendor doesn't really need. If an online purchase procedure requires customers to provide unnecessary information, shop elsewhere.

- Only provide credit card information online as the sole initiator of a purchase – it must be the buyer's idea, not a response to an email, text or social media message, even a message from a friend or family member.
- Log out of everything when finished. Don't leave applications or browsers open.

The annual Data Privacy Day is promoted by governments, nonprofits, and trade associations specializing in cyber security. Agencies can join the online conversation by using the official hashtag #PrivacyAware.

More cyber security tips are available online at GetPrepared.in.gov.

Radioactive Materials Related to Closed IU Cyclotron Transported Out of Indiana

All of the extremely low-level radioactive materials from the former cancer-treating cyclotron at Indiana University in Bloomington have been shipped out of the state.

“This never presented a serious health risk, but it’s the kind of thing we nevertheless preferred to monitor closely,” said Laura Dresen, radiological program director for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

The disassembled radioactive building materials and medical equipment used in the immediate location of the cyclotron’s cancer-treating proton beam was transported out of Bloomington to a waste disposal facility in Utah. The process began in July of 2015 and was completed on May 12, 2016.

Dresen and other IDHS officials conducted conference-call briefings

for emergency managers and other key agencies in July of 2015 to ensure they were informed about what was passing through their areas by truck or train. The key messages of the briefings: the cyclotron materials presented no immediate public health risk if an accident occurred and that first responders should not hesitate in assisting accident victims near the materials.

The materials posed no health risk unless someone ingested them or was closely exposed to them for years. Even though the risk was minimal, radiologic risks of any kind in Indiana are a concern to the Hazardous Materials Section of IDHS, which focuses on prevention, management and mitigation of emergencies.

Most of the transported materials looked like deconstructed

demolition debris – blocks/slabs of concrete. Also transported were deconstructed metal, steel and plastic components of hospital equipment. “Radioactive” labels and placards were used on any load that exceeded concentrations regulated by the Indiana Department of Transportation.

The IU Cyclotron was established in 1976 as a physics research facility that provided radiation treatments for cancerous tumors.

Two private companies handled the decommissioning process for the university: Ameriphysics, a decontamination and decommissioning company headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, managed the process. Energy Solutions, a nuclear services company headquartered in Salt Lake City, transported the materials to its disposal facility in Clive, Utah.

National Fire Academy 2017 Class List

F0602 – Shaping the Future

This two-day course is designed to assist first and second-level supervisors and company officers in developing knowledge and skills in contemporary approaches to organizational problem-solving.

Dates: January 11-12, 2017

Location: Cicero Fire Department, Cicero, IN

Register at [indianafiretraining.com/District 5](http://indianafiretraining.com/District5)

F0730 – Health and Safety Officer

This two-day course examines the Health and Safety Officer's role in identifying, evaluating and implementing policy and procedures that affect health and safety aspects for emergency responders. Risk analysis, wellness, and other occupational safety issues will be the main emphasis of this course.

Dates: February 11-12, 2017

Location: Public Safety Academy – Ivy Tech Fort Wayne, IN

Register at [indianafiretraining.com/District 3](http://indianafiretraining.com/District3)

NFA INDIANA WEEKEND

W0522 – Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership Through Difficult Conversations

Provides the knowledge and skills for having difficult conversations to exercise leadership in addressing adaptive challenges.

W0635 – Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction

Demonstrates nationally recognized principles that, when used appropriately, can lead to community risk-reduction programs that can measure success in local communities.

W0602 – Shaping the Future

Assists first and second-level supervisors and company officers in developing knowledge and skills in contemporary approaches to organizational problem-solving.

Dates: July 7-9, 2017

Register at [indianafiretraining.com/District 5](http://indianafiretraining.com/District5)

Direct questions to Jason Coffey at jacoffey@dhs.in.gov or 317-452-0691.

Fire Marshal Encourages Hoosiers to Practice Heating Safety

Keeping warm during the winter months is something many Hoosiers are familiar with, and State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson, part of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, is encouraging community fire departments to reach out to citizens on how to be responsible with their heating choices this winter season.

“Home fires occur more often in winter than in any other season, and heating equipment is involved in one out of every six of those fires,” says Greeson. “Encourage residents to consider other options before using alternative heating. Add insulation or other heat-capturing barriers to window and doors. Wearing warmer clothes and adding blankets will also help with comfort. If you must use space heaters or other forms of alternative heating, take precautions.”

Alternative Heating

Space heaters should always be kept away from loose or flammable objects such as clothing, curtains, bedding and furniture.

- There should be at least a three-foot perimeter around space heaters at all times.
- Do not leave space heaters on in unoccupied rooms.
- Choose space heaters with an automatic off switch
- Only one space heater should be plugged into each electrical outlet.
- Turn off space heaters and other alternative heating appliances before leaving home or going to bed.

Appliances, such as a stove or oven, should not be used for heating. Using these appliances as a heating option can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fireplaces and Wood Stoves

While fireplaces and wood burning stoves can be wonderful in the winter, proper maintenance to the chimney is important to home safety. Chimneys remove the substances that are produced when wood burns, which can build up in the much cooler chimney, forming creosote. Creosote is highly flammable, and in large quantities, can result in a chimney fire.

To prevent creosote build-up in a chimney:

- Use seasoned wood – wood that has been split for at least six months.
- Avoid overstocking the fireplace or stove with wood. Over-crowding can contribute to creosote build-up.
- Avoid restricting air supply.

Here are some tips to follow to help prevent these fires at home:

- Have the chimney checked by a professional before use and have it cleaned if needed.
- Make sure the professional who inspects the chimney looks for cracks and loose bricks.
- Keep the outdoor area near the chimney clear. Trees and branches should be at least 15 feet away.

Fires should always be extinguished before going to bed or leaving home for any period of time.

Local fire departments are encouraged to reach out with any questions or needs.

For more information on safe alternative heating safety, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.



Mission

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security will provide statewide leadership, exemplary customer service, and subject matter expertise for the enhancement of public and private partnerships and the assurance of local, state and federal collaboration to continually develop Indiana's public safety capabilities for the wellbeing and protection of our citizens, property and economy.

Contact

The Hoosier Responder is a publication of The Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Office of Public Affairs at (317) 234-6713 or pio@dhs.in.gov.

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